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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rise in Numbers of West Nile Virus Cases Found In Horses This Year

(Phoenix, AZ) -- A sixth case of West Nile Virus has been discovered in Camp Verde, Arizona. The following is a list of cases so far this year.

- Mesa, AZ April 20, 2005 First case
- Buckeye, AZ
- Laveen, AZ
- Laveen, AZ
- Buckeye, AZ
- Camp Verde, AZ

Last year, 109 cases were discovered in horses in Arizona. West Nile affects horses much more often than any other domestic animals. Many horses infected with West Nile do not develop any illness, but of horses that become ill about one-third die or need to be euthanized. In general, other livestock and poultry do not show any illness if infected with West Nile. Below are some common questions about West Nile in horses.

How do horses become infected with West Nile virus?

The same way humans become infected-by the bite of infectious mosquitoes. The mosquitoes become infected after feeding on an infected bird. Mosquitoes cannot get West Nile virus from an infected horse.

Can I get infected with West Nile virus by caring for an infected horse?

West Nile virus is transmitted by infectious mosquitoes. The infected horse is not contagious to humans or to other horses. Normal infection control precautions should be followed when caring for a sick horse.

Can a horse infected with West Nile virus infect horses in neighboring stalls?

No. There is no documented evidence that West Nile virus is transmitted between horses.

How do I protect my horse?

Control insects in the area and have your horse vaccinated.

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